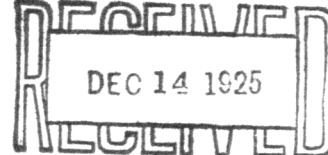


DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

Cordova



BY _____

November 30, 1925

The Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

There follows a summary of the work done and investigations made in Cook Inlet district season 1925 with recommendations for 1926.

Repairs and alterations to the Kittiwake being completed, we sailed from Seattle on the 15th day of April for Cook Inlet. Mr. J. R. Russell, Field Superintendent aboard going to Yes Bay, where we arrive April 19th, leaving Yes Bay April 21st, with Mr. Russell, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Severson of the Bureau aboard for Ketchikan where we arrive during the evening of the same day.

Leaving Ketchikan on the 22nd of April to erect markers as instructed by the Juneau office at the limits of closed areas (West Coast Prince of Wales Island) in Kasook Inlet, Hetta Inlet, Sarcar Cove and Shipley Bay. After completing the work assigned we departed from the latter place April 26th.

In route to Cooks Inlet stops were made at Warm Spring Bay, Hoonah, Dixon Harbor, Yakutat, Cordova and Seward, arriving at Seldovia, Cook Inlet May 10th.

The work of marking stream mouths was immediately begun and carried out in the sequence of the importance and value of the different salmon streams.

MARKERS ESTABLISHED

During the season markers were established at the Kenai, Kasilof, Ninilchik, Chuit, and Seldovia Rivers, Deep Creek, Kalgin Island Creek, Dory Creek, Indian Creek, Three Mile and Starichkof Creeks, Koyuktolik and China Poot Lagoons at English Bay, Tutka Bay, Port Chatham and Port Graham Bays. The erection of markers were done in conjunction with patrol work and other duties and retarded by natural condition in Cook Inlet, such as unusual tides, knee deep mud covering extensive flats at the mouth of various streams in exposed places without anchorages where a boat may be safely left while part of the crew is at work ashore. Approximately 35 streams remain to be marked in this district.

PATROL MAINTAINED

A continuous patrol was maintained with the Kittiwake during the weekly close period in which time as much fishing gear of all classes was inspected as was possible. In addition to the patrol work done with the Kittiwake, a power dory was chartered and Mr. William Besser was employed to patrol with this boat all fishing gear operated between Moose Point and Point Possession during the heavy run of salmon - July 15th to August 9th. King salmon fishing with gill nets commencing shortly after our arrival at Cook Inlet made patrol duties an early part of our work.

Memorandum for The Commissioner:

You may desire
to read this general report from Warden
J. N. Braun. I am especially
interested in his statement on page two
that shore-downs were used successfully.
I have felt all along that they could be.

9/28/21.

H. W. P.

W. B.

Commissioner No. 2

VIOLATIONS FISHERY REGULATIONS

On May 24th eleven Kenai Native fishermen were found illegally fishing, twenty eight set nets (Gill Nets) on the flats off the Kustatan River. Two of these fishermen operated six nets and two dories for and belonging to J. A. Magill of Anchorage, the remaining nine being employed to operate twenty two nets with seven dories for and owned by Libby McNeill & Libby (cannery at Kenai). The fishermen were placed under arrest and the fishing equipment seized. All were brought to Anchorage where the fishermen pleaded guilty before the U. S. Commissioner, they received and served a sentence of ten days in the Federal Jail. The fishing equipment was placed in charge of a custodian and after a long delay was delivered to the Department of Justice, July 9th.

FORFEITURE AND SALE OF CONFISCATED FISHING GEAR

Libby McNeill & Libby forfeited their nets and dories without protest and the same was sold at auction by the U. S. marshal September 10th, for the sum of \$471.20.

J.A. Magill contested the seizure of his nets and dories before the U. S. District Court at Seward in which his nets were ordered confiscated, the dories being returned to him upon the ground that they were not being used for fishing when seized. The sale of these nets amounted to \$31.25.

(A separate report was made to the Bureau in connection with the foregoing violations)

STREAM IMPROVEMENT

This work was confined mostly to streams affected near places where the Kittiwake could be safely anchored while making inspection or doing improvement work. Charles Robinson & Son were employed to blast out a coal ledge about six miles up the Chuit River, which obstructed the ascent of salmon. The writer assisted by some of the crew of the Kittiwake cut seven beaver dams on Three Mile Creek, seven on Cycloman Creek, a small tributary to Chuit River, and three on Indian Creek. The mouth of Indian Creek was opened up where a large bank of gravel had been thrown up during the winter storms causing the waters of the stream to seep thru the gravel, preventing young salmon from getting out of the stream or salmon from entering, all of the foregoing are red salmon streams with lakes at their source, approximately three quarters of a mile wide by two miles in length.

Considerable attention was given Kalgin Island Creek, this an important red salmon stream where an estimated number of forty thousand red salmon were found at the mouth unable to ascend due to the small quantity of water in the stream which was spread over the gravel beach at the mouth, after digging a channel from mouth of stream to about half tide mark, 1216 red salmon were counted going into this stream in approximately two hours on August 9th. A conservative estimate of 20 Dolly Varden Trout were following each of the 1216 red salmon counted entering the stream at this time. This stream approximately one and a half miles long, average width 15 to 20 feet, average depth 1 to 3 feet, sluggish, excepting approximately 150 yards from the mouth. Surrounding country very low, with practically no water shed, apparently water supplied this stream and lake comes from under ground springs. Lake at source reported to be approximately one and a half miles long by one half mile wide, not visited personally.

From investigations made and work done in opening up beaver dams in Indian Cycloman and Three Mile Creeks and from reports received regarding beaver dams in other streams extending from Chinikna Bay to Susitna River, it is apparent that spawning areas in this section are seriously affected by these dams and in a very short time will be entirely destroyed. The most important stream observed requiring improvement is Chinik Creek (Kamishak Bay) attached hereto is copy of report on this stream by stream guard James Hart, which covers the situation quite thoroughly.

It may be added here that Mr. Hart is an experienced hard rock miner.

Important red salmon streams emptying into Kenai Lake and tributaries, Kenai River in addition to streams emptying into the Susitna River and areas north of Susitna River were not visited, due to the distance and time required to make investigations at these points.

STREAM GUARDS AND OTHER TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

James Hart, stream guard was stationed at Chinik Creek (Kamishak Bay) June 3rd to July 30th, inclusive.

Jack Tansy, stream guard at English Bay Stream, June 1st to July 31st.

Ed Henning, on board the Kittiwake assisting in measuring distance from mouths of streams and erecting markers, May 18th to July 5th.

William Besser, Custodian seized fishing gear at Anchorage, May 28th to July 8th, inclusive.

George M. Thomas, Custodian seized dories at Kustatan May 26th to 29th.

John Delone, assisting custodian-William Besser washing and storing seized nets and gears at Anchorage, May 28th to 31st, inclusive.

William Besser, patrolman Moose Point to Point Possession July 15th to August 3rd and August 7th to 9th.

Lin Jorgeson, in charge of Kittiwake during storm at Seward, October 6th to 9th inclusive. Master of the Kittiwake required ashore in connection trials fishery cases at Seward.

SALMON RUN

THE 1925 salmon season in Cook Inlet was marked by a good run of red, silver and king salmon and a very light run of pink and chum salmon. The unusual occurrence of silver salmon in advance of the reds is unknown by cannerymen to have taken place in other years, moreover the quality of the silver salmon varied with the general condition of this fish in past years, in that they were loose scaled, and soft meated, and had the appearance of being immature. Red Salmon did not begin to run in quantities until the 16th of July. This run continued during two days, prior the above date there was a very light run of this specie. The second run of red salmon struck in above Anchor Point July 22nd and continued to run heavy until the 24th, after which the run slackened, however, good catches were taken well up to the close of the season, August 10th. There was no appreciable amount of salmon caught below Anchor Point at any time during the season.

Copy of Report

By James Hart-Stream Guard, Chinik Creek (Kamishak Bay(Cook Inlet)
Season 1925

Chinik Creek at the mouth where it empties in the sea (Kamishak Bay) has a fall and rapids, and the water is not confined to one channel; but spreads out over the falls for a distance of about 75 feet, making it impossible for the fish to get up the creek on small tides. In fact, there is not many fish get up the creek only on the highest tides; as the water is getting low in the stream when the run starts in. This year the run commenced the 21st of June; but did not start up the creek until about the 1st. of July.

Out of the 75 or 80 thousand fish that comes to the creek, there is not over one third that reach the spawning ground. I have examined this natural barrier very carefully and have come to the conclusion that with the expenditure of about \$1200.00 a channel can be blasted thru so the water will be confined to one channel. The length of the work will be 80 feet thru a hard conglomerate formation. This work completed would let the fish go to the spawning ground on any tide. The length of the creek from salt water to lake is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, width of creek 25 feet; no barrier in creek above fall.

The lake or spawning ground is about two miles long by about one half mile wide. a beautiful body of water. With this work done at the falls there would be nothing to prevent the entire run from going to the spawning ground. I recommend this work should be done.

Signed:

James Hart-Stream Guard-

(Fish referred to in this report are red salmon.)

R.L.Cole

OPERATORS AMOUNT AND KIND OF GEAR EMPLOYED

The following concerns engaged in the salmon fishery of Cook Inlet, the amount and kind of gear used by them as follows:

Libby McNeill and Libby, cannery at Kenai
10 deep water traps-5 beach traps-91 king salmon gill nets,
25 fthms. each.

Northwestern Fisheries Company, Kenai
7 deep water traps--3 beach traps

Gorman & Company, Anchorage
8 Beach traps-24 king salmon nets, approximate 20 fthms. each

Fidalgo Island Packing Company, cannery at Point Graham,
7 deep water traps-

Cook Inlet Packing Company, cannery at Seldovia
4 Beach traps

Alaska Year Round Canneries Inc., cannery at Seldovia
4 Beach traps-

North Coast Packing Company, cannery at Ninilchik
3 Beach traps-

W. A. Keller, cannery at Deep Creek
5 Gill nets-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Mesh, 25 fthms long

J. A. Magill, saltery at Anchorage, (Mild cure and hard salt)
6 Beach traps--100 king salmon nets, 25 fthms. each

Norstedt & Sanstrom, Starichkof Creek, (Mild Cure on small scow)
2--25 fthm. king salmon nets
Fish taken from 1--25 fthm. net belonging to Fred Winslow
Fish taken from 1--17 fthm. net belonging to A. Johnson

FISHING GEAR EMPLOYED COOK INLET

Total fishing gear employed in Cook Inlet as Follows:

33 Beach traps
24 deep water pile traps
219 king salmon nets approximate length 25 fthms.
5 red salmon nets 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh length 25 fthms.

TOTAL PACK CANNED SALMON

The combined packs canned salmon in Cook Inlet as per preliminary verbal reports submitted by the various packers are as follows:

Reds	85,953 cases, basis 1 lb. cans--48 to the case							
Coho	11,844 "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Kings	10,619 "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Pink	484 "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Chum	1,630 "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
TOTAL	110,530							

TOTAL PACK-MILD CURE AND HARD SALT SALMON

Combined packs of mild cure and hard salt salmon are as follows:

Red salmon hard salt	396	bbls-200 lbs each
Silver " " "	114	" " " "
Chums " " "	30	" " " "
	<u>540</u>	TOTAL All Species

Mild cure King salmon
148 Tierces 800 lb. each

MISCELLANEOUS PACKS OTHER FISHERY PRODUCTS

W. A. Keller-cannery at Deep Creek packed 46 cases half flat razor clams.

Alaska Year Round Cannery Inc, cannery at Seldovia packed 95 cases of half flat giant crab.

SALMON TAKEN FOR FOX FEED

Raby & Younger at Seldovia-900 pink salmon, 50 Chum salmon

Russell Waterbery, China Poot Lagoon, 450 silver salmon

Dan Peterson, Peterson Bay, 450 silver salmon

Matt Youth, Seldovia, 900 Chum salmon

NEW CONCERNS OPERATING IN COOK INLET-SEASON 1925

Gorman & Company, cannery at Anchorage
(Formerly Anchorage Packing Company) idle season 1924

Cook Inlet Packing Company, cannery at Seldovia, one line plant buildt new. This concern operated jointly with the Alaska Year Round Canneries, Inc., under the firm name Alaska Year Round & Cook Inlet Packing Company-season 1924.

W. A. Keller, home office-Seldovia, Alaska
Salmon and clam cannery buildt new at Deep Creek about one and three quarters miles south of Ninilchik (This a very small hand cannery)

IDLE PLANTS

Polar Fisheries, Smug Harbor
Operated by Pioneer Canneries, Inc.-season 1923
Operated by Chisik Island Corporation,-season 1924
Idle season 1925

Artic Packing Company, English Bay
Idle season 1925

ESCAPEMENT

This phase of the salmon fishing in cook inlet was particularly gratifying in all streams as was possible to observe, reference here is made to red salmon. While no personal inspection was made of the spawning grounds, tributary to the Kenai & Kasilof Rivers the writer observed quantities of red salmon entering the Kenai River on July 16th and 24th and from reliable information many salmon were

seen entering this river July 22nd and 23rd. This escapement also applies to the Kasilof River. Mention is made of the escapement at Kalgin Island Creek, under the heading of "stream improvment", also at Chinik Creek in Mr. Hart's report on this stream. A good escapement is also reported by stream guard Tansy at English Bay Stream.

WORK DONE AFTER CLOSE OF SALMON SEASON AUGUST 10th

At the close of the salmon season pack figures were obtained from the various salmon packers a list of which was compiled and furnished the Seattle and Juneau office. The work of stream marking was continued as wather conditions permitted and patrol work was done in connection with the herring fishery. Additional to the general fishery work in Cook Inlet the Kittiwake was at the service of Mr. Winn, meeting him at Kodiak and transporting him to Letnik Bay and Illamma Bay, meeting him again at the latter place and taking him to Anchorage. Also a number of Fox farmers and live Fox from the Kasilof River were transported on the Kittiwake to Anchorage and returned to Kasilof River.

Leaving Seldovia with the Kittiwake October 1st to attend court at Seward, taking with us Mr. Studdert, Mr. Tansy and other Government witnesses re- violations, fishery regulation Cook Inlet season 1924. We remained at Seward attending court proceedings until October 15th. While at Seward recommendations for certain changes in fishery regulation for the Cook Inlet district were prepared and forwarded to Mr. Winn at Juneau. A complete record of trial re- all fishery cases Cook Inlet season 1924 and 25 was obtained from the District Attorney and forwarded to the Seattle office.

Leaving Seward October 15th, we returned to Seldovia and thence to Kenai taking Mr. Andrew Berg home (Mr. Berg was an important Government witness fishery cases). A stop was made on this trip at Kasilof River. Here several fox farmers were visited for the purpose of ascertaining quantities of salmon used for fox feed, if any. From information obtained only small quantities of dried salmon were being used for this purpose, in this vicinity; as most all of the stock is of the silver Hack variety, requiring a different food than the Blue Fox.

Returning to Seldovia from Kasilof River pack figures were obtained from all herring operators. The name of each concern and the amount packed by all herring operators in Cook Inlet up to November 1st was supplied Mr. Jack Tansy, copies of which were furnished Seattle and Juneau office.

In accordance with Mr. Winn's letter of September 30th arrangements were made with Mr. Tansy to supervise the winter herring fishery in Cook Inlet from November 3rd to the close of the herring season.

We left Cook Inlet for Prince William Sound November 3rd, arriving at Cordova November 8th. A separate report will be made for the Cook Inlet herring fishery at the close of the herring season.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1926

It is hereby respectfully urged that the following recommendations for the furtherence of work and enhancement of efficiency in the Cook Inlet fisheries be given consideration.

1. That a competent boat man be assigned to the Kittiwake for a period of six months during the year who is capable of taking charge when operations of the Bureau require the Master ashore. The expense of this man to be paid from appropriation: "Protecting Seal and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1926" Cook Inlet Allowment.
2. That two power dories be constructed for patrol work along certain beaches on Cook Inlet too dangerous to ply with a larger boat. Two power dories of a suitable type would be economical to construct and operate and as affective in law inforcement in the ground they cover as a larger craft. These boats could also be used to good advantage in other places of the Bureau's work, in the rivers and on the flats of Cook Inlet.
3. That permission be granted to spend a sum not to exceed 1200 dollars for the improvment of Chinik Creek (Kamishak Bay)
4. That permission be granted for the construction of a fence, barricade or other device in Kalgin Creek as may be recommended by the Bureau which will permit salmon to enter the stream and keep the trout out.
5. Present available Appropriation; "Protecting Seal and Salmon Fisheries of Alaska, 1926"-Cook Inlet Allotment, will cover the expense necessary to complete improvment recommended for Chinik and Kalgin Island Creeks and salary of extra man for Kittiwake April 15th to June 30th, 1926 in addition to other expenses incident to the Bureau's work in Cook Inlet to June 30th, 1926.

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. Cole

Master U. S. F. S. Kittiwake

Copy to Mr. Winn, Seattle
" " Seattle Office
" " Juneau Office

Winn's letter re this 6/23/26
(See entry 4th same month report of May 28, 1926)